

The Oregon Mist

Entered at the Postoffice at St. Helens, Oregon, as second-class mail matter.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY BY
R. H. FLAGG.
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year.....\$1.00
Six months......50
Advertising rates made known on application. Legal notices 25 cents per line.

County Official Paper

CIRCUIT COURT OFFICERS:
Thomas A. McBride.....District Judge
E. B. Tongue.....District Attorney
COUNTY OFFICERS
James Dart, Judge.....St. Helens
W. A. Harris, Clerk.....St. Helens
Martin White, Sheriff.....St. Helens
W. E. Tichenor, Comm'r.....Clatskanie
H. West, Commissioner.....Scappoose
E. E. Quick, Treasurer.....St. Helens
A. T. Laws, Assessor.....St. Helens
J. H. Collins, School Supt.....Clatskanie
C. T. Prescott, Surveyor.....St. Helens
Frank Sherwood, Coroner.....Rainier

A. & C. TIME TABLE

HOULTON
Arrives from Portland:—
12:11 and 8:50 a.m.
2:08 and 6:50 p.m.
Leaves for Portland:—
7:58 and 11:18 a.m.
9:03 and 4:11 p.m.

STATE TAXES.

The newly created Board of Equalization now in session at the State Capitol, should, and doubtless will, pay discriminating attention to the manifest discrepancies existing in the valuations placed by the assessors upon the property of different counties. As we understand it, the State tax must be levied upon the basis of property valuations, and it is manifestly unjust that the people of any county should be made to suffer because the county assessor has respected his oath and has assessed property, as plainly required by the law, at its full cash value. That many assessors have not done this is very plain and probably no more glaring instance of undervaluation can be found than that of Clatsop County, which is assessed at \$8,782,420, while Columbia County, with probably one half of the wealth of Clatsop, figures at \$15,514,488. A glance at a few of the items that make up these totals is all that is necessary to show their manifest disproportion. Clatsop County has assessed at \$3,870,441.

Columbia County has 406,134 acres of non-tillable lands, assessed at \$8,910,835. The value of improvements on deeded or patented lands in Clatsop County is assessed at \$160,506. The value of improvements on deeded or patented lands in Columbia County is assessed at \$424,243. The value of steamboats, sailboats, stationary engines and manufacturing machinery in Clatsop County is assessed at \$109,900. The same classification in Columbia County is assessed at \$571,210. The value of merchandise and stock in trade in Clatsop is placed at \$320,762. The same classification in Columbia is placed at \$198,520.

Of money, notes and accounts the assessor of Clatsop County could find only \$133,500, while the assessor of Columbia County found \$499,198. Certainly not a very good showing for a county containing a city claiming to have over 15,000 inhabitants and boasting of its business and manufactures.

The value of household furniture, watches, jewelry, etc., is placed by Clatsop's assessor at only \$68,960, while Columbia's assessor was able to find similar property worth \$103,220.

We are willing to predict that Clatsop County's salaried booster will never incorporate these figures in any of the city or county's advertising pamphlets. And yet we are informed that Clatsop's assessor testified under oath before the State Board that these figures represented the true cash value of the property. Of course this was not true. Columbia was one of the few counties in Oregon where the assessor respected his oath of office and assessed at full cash value. We believe this is understood by the State Board and that they will act accordingly, equalizing up to the true cash value and thereby doing justice, instead of equalizing down and thereby paying a premium on perjury and malfeasance in office. If, however, the opposite course is pursued, the only proper thing for Columbia County to do is to refuse to pay its State taxes and thereby compel the State to bring the matter before an equity court.

A LITTLE ADVICE.
It will be good policy for the saloon men of St. Helens to conduct their business, as nearly as possible, in conformity with public opinion, even if in doing so they keep well within the limits of the law, for public opinion nowadays can soon crystallize into law and the liquor dealers will be the losers thereby.

It is a matter of common knowledge that women were permitted to carouse in one of the saloons and it is very plain that liquor is being sold to men to whom it should not be sold, and in some instances where the wives have forbidden its sale. The money is needed by the women and children and the men needs his brain to transact his business and his health to do his work. But this does not appeal to all saloon men. They have paid their license money and so long as the law is not invoked against

them they care nothing for the injury they inflict upon the community or the loss and suffering entailed upon the drunkard's wife and children.

A competent business man and loving husband may be converted into a bestial nonentity or a dangerous brute, but the saloon keeper justifies himself with the plea that he pays his license and that if he did not furnish the liquor on demand someone else would. And there is some truth in this, though it is by no means a justification. Competition in business is one of the greatest incentives to reputable methods. Millionaires, in order to add to their wealth, are willing to poison the food supply and it took the strong hand of the government to effect even a partial reform. There is no use of appealing to any motive except that of self interest, therefore we tell the liquor dealers that it will pay them to get together and conduct their business so that it will do as little harm as possible. It is bad enough at best.

Admiral Sperry declares that the cruise of the big fleet has been successful from every point of view. It is the greatest moving picture show old Neptune has ever witnessed.

MR. NICKERSON'S LETTER

In Which He Sets Up Men of Straw and Bowls Them Over.

Vernonia, Or., Feb. 8, '09
EDITOR OF THE MIST:
In your issue of Jan. 15 you boast somewhat of being in harmony with the policies that are for the best interests of the majority of the people. Now as I have my doubts as to your sincerity in this respect, I wish to take exceptions to a statement made by you in the same issue, which follows:

"The statement that the assessor's expenses should come out of his salary is not apt to be endorsed by intelligent taxpayers and reflects no credit on Columbia County's representative. Its injustice is so manifest that no argument is necessary."

I presume that you imply, of course, to all expenses of the assessor's office not including books, stationery and stamps.

Now I claim to be a taxpayer of ordinary intelligence and I have a right to that claim as I have lived in the Nehalem Valley for 20 years and have made a success at my occupation.

Now, I, for one, positively object to Sec. 4 of the assessor's law for Columbia County.

First. Because it is directly in conflict with our constitutional rights, which provides for "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

Second. Because it makes the salary of the assessor, as described in Section 1 and 2 of said law, excessive.

In conjunction with Section 3 it endows him with power to hire all the work of his office done by deputies while he may live at leisure and it further compels the county court to pay out the people's money for work for which the salary of \$2,000 is amply sufficient. Why? Because we are living under a competitive system and there are plenty of good men who will do the work of either the assessor or sheriff for the salary prescribed in Section 1 and 2.

As in the case of Mr. A. S. Harrison when nominated by the Republicans and was honorable enough to denounce the faulty construction of Section 4 and the way it was unscrupulously lobbied through a thoughtless legislature. And then he was stabbed in the back by a political combination that exists in the neighborhood of our county seat.

Don't think for a minute, Mr. Editor, that no argument is necessary, for there is a strong sentiment throughout Columbia County against this sort of procedure and it is my impression that the people as a whole are becoming very tired of being hoodwinked by the very men that we have placed the most confidence in.

You say "there has been no complaint that the assessor has been guilty of grafting." Now I do not claim that any county officer is grafting, only indirectly through an unscrupulous law, which I am sure, if left to the people, would be cast out.

Excuse me, but tell me why the same legislature did not enact a similar law pertaining to the county clerk's office. As any well informed person knows, that office has three times the work of any other office in the county and receives the least pay. Alluding to section 4 as being excessive and unjust, I wish to illustrate the work of the assessor's office by my own recollection.

Being a farmer I aim to run my farm on a practical basis. My wife, two children and myself work hard the year around in all kinds of weather, pay our own expenses and consider we do well if we make five hundred dollars. And, by the way, we consider that we have just as blue blood in our veins as any county official and are willing to give them all a good salary, sufficient for an up-to-date maintenance with no side grafts included, and I certainly believe there are plenty of good men in the county that will accept the office of assessor for the regular salary as prescribed by law in Section 1 and 2, and will voluntarily place upon the rolls all property prescribed by law without the persistent action of the grand jury. You may consider this a complaint in as far as it goes, let it hit who it will let them defend themselves. I wish to call your attention to the fact that we are not living in Russia, and we do not propose the Grand Dukes shall have their way about everything.

And you, my dear editor, may live to see the day when "Old Ireland will have her liberty."

And the interest that is being expressed by our present Representative in the repeal of this unjust measure certainly adds much credit to him as a true representative of the people.

Now all I ask of you is to give me room in the columns of your paper and

I will endeavor to demonstrate to whom it may concern that there is always two sides to a question.

Submitting this for publication I am Very respectfully
E. E. NICKERSON.

To Mr. Nickerson and all others concerned: Your first paragraph conveys an insult which ordinarily should deprive you of any right to space in this paper. Nevertheless I propose to answer you and try to convince you that you are wrong. The editor personally cares nothing whatever for Mr. Nickerson's opinion. It would be easy to get a list of a hundred of the heaviest taxpayers in this county who do not believe a single county officer receives a cent more salary than he is justly entitled to, but such a list would have no effect on Mr. Nickerson or his ilk, for the Bible says, "The fool is wise in his own conceit."

As to the third section of the law the editor of the Mist said it was faulty and should be amended, therefore the discussion is as to the fourth section only, which provides that all necessary expenses of the assessor and his deputy shall be paid by the county.

The statement made by Mr. Nickerson in the second count of his letter that the assessor receives \$2000 is untrue. The salary is \$1200 and the office deputy receives \$800 per annum. This is not change 1 by Mr. Conyers' bill.

The county court, under the present law, is required to pay only the necessary expenses. If in its judgment the assessor's expense account or any item of it is excessive it can refuse payment and the assessor would have to relinquish his claim or bring suit in the circuit court. Mr. Conyers' bill will not alter this nor save the county one cent. It will not, in other words, accomplish the injustice it attempts.

Excuse me, Mr. Nickerson, but as you wish to know why the Legislature did not pass a law providing for payment of the clerk's expenses, will you please explain why Representative Conyers did not introduce a bill repealing the much stronger provision for the payment of expenses of the sheriff's office, whose salary is \$300 per annum higher than that of the assessor. If your blue blood will permit it, stand up on your hind legs and tell the ignorant editor how you explain this except upon the theory of spitefulness or favoritism. Read that section of the sheriff's law and then explain. Your statement that the county clerk's office receives less pay than any other office in the county is certainly news to the clerk, and illustrates the careless manner in which you handle statistics. The clerk's salary is \$1400 per annum and he has one office deputy and additional help when he considers it necessary for the proper discharge of his duties. We hope you have no blue blood in your veins for blue blood is diseased blood and you really don't need it. Still, we will take word that your blood is as blue as indigo and as impure as your thoughts are uncharitable.

Now, as to the clerk's office: There is no dispute as to the ability and efficiency of the present clerk. But, if you will remember, the county court refused at one time to give Mr. Harris the help he thought necessary to prepare the tax roll. The law made no specific provision for such expense, so Mr. Harris complied with the law, and after due warning to the county court that the roll would not be ready for the sheriff unless a help was granted, did his regular start of eight hours per day and let the court do the worrying. Result: the court surrendered to the clerk, but the unnecessary delay caused by its obstinacy cost Columbia County several hundred dollars. I suppose you remember that Mr. Harris was re-elected by a very large majority last June, which may fairly be taken as an endorsement by the people of his official course.

As to Mr. Harrison being beaten by the St. Helens ring, the Mist submits a few figures for your careful consideration, if you ever do any considering: The vote in June gave Clark a plurality of 108 over Harrison, while the Republican candidate for Congress had a plurality of about 800, therefore Mr. Harrison ran 900 behind the straight Republican vote throughout the county. The fact is, and Mr. Harrison admits it, he was beaten because the voters of the county believed him to be the candidate of the timber speculators. Clatskanie precinct, which gave him a majority at the primary gave a majority of thirty for Clark at the general election. St. Helens, in June last, did not have one third of the population of Union precinct. In fact the time has long passed when a St. Helens ring could dictate the politics of Columbia County.

Revolts at Cold Steel

"Your only hope," said three doctors to Mrs. M. E. Fisher, Detroit, Mich., suffering from severe rectal trouble, lies in an operation. "Then I used Dr. King's New Life Pills," she writes, "till wholly cured." They prevent Appendicitis, core Constipation, Headache. 25c at Houlton, Deer Island and Warren dealers.

When Arizona and New Mexico are admitted as states they will be smart enough to give more time to the subject of irrigation than that of hitching up with political bourbonism.

Washington Once Gave Up

to three doctors; was kept in bed for five weeks. Blood poison from a spider's bite caused large, deep sores to cover his leg. The doctors failed, then "Bocklen's Arnica Salve" completely cured me," writes John Washington, of Bonaventure, Texas. For eczema, boils, burns and piles its supreme. Only 25c at Houlton, Deer Island and Warren dealers.

Gov. Haskell's trial on the charge of town-land frauds will be the first of its kind. Oklahoma has stirred up one more novelty than it expected.

New York Store

Carries the only complete line of General Merchandise, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Hay, Grain, Flour and Feed in the City.

Courteous treatment, good goods, prompt delivery for all. Your patronage solicited.

Ready made clothes for Men, Women and Children. Complete line of Gent's Furnishings.

H. MORCUS

St. Helens, Ore.

FACTS ABOUT OREGON

Being Distributed to Millions of Readers Through Personal Letters.

PORTLAND, February 15, 1909.

The business men, ministers, school children and citizens of Portland generally are busily engaged this week sending in personal letters to their friends a leaflet which, in addition to most effectively advertising the fact that "Oregon is the place for you," and giving the low rates to the State, contains the following condensed facts on Oregon:

OREGON

Has one sixth the standing timber of the United States, or more than any other State. Government estimate three hundred billion feet.

A vast undeveloped area now available to the homemaker and investor will go on the market in 1909. This will be the most luxurious section cut in Uncle Sam's domain during the present year.

Has arable land enough for twenty million people. Present population 703,000.

Does more than any other State to advance irrigation, being the largest contributor to the United States reclamation fund.

Is natural dairy state. Annual product \$17,000,000, an increase from \$5,000,000 five years ago. Western portion has pasture every month in the year. Ranks second in wool clip among the States.

Oregon apples, pears and cherries find their way to the tables of sovereigns and multimillionaires of every civilized land they are the best. Returns of from \$300 to \$1,000 per acre on fruit land are not exceptional.

Poultry products \$5,000,000 annually. Local market demands three times that amount at highest prices.

Has water powers sufficient to run all the machinery in the United States.

Livestock in state estimated at \$75,000,000. Packing plants now building insure a trebled market.

Has two prosperous mining sections, located in the eastern and southern portions of the State—gold, silver, iron, copper and oil among the products.

Has diversity of climate and soils suited to every product of the temperate zone not dependent upon hot nights.

Kodol for Dyspepsia and Indigestion does the ordinary work of the stomach, so that by taking a little Kodol now and then you cannot possibly have indigestion or any form of stomach trouble. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose druggist.

Kennedy's Laxative Cough Syrup not only cures inflammation and irritation of throat and lungs, but it drives out the cold from the system by a free yet gentle action of the bowels. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose druggist.

Brazil not only welcomes but promotes Japanese immigration. The United States is willing that Brazil should monopolize it, so the matter ought to be adjusted without serious friction.

Kodol is a combination of all the natural digestive juices found in an ordinary healthy stomach, and it will digest your food in a natural way. Pleasant to take. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose druggist.

When President Roosevelt shall surrender the keys to his successor there will be no unfinished business on the desk or in any of the pigeon holes. He has cleaned up everything and everybody.

DeWitt's Carbolized Witch Hazel Salve, the original, is good for anything when a salve is needed, and is especially good for piles. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose druggist.

If Arizona and New Mexico have any radical ideas on Japanese immigration they are keeping it dark.

The new battleship Delaware is 510 feet long and 85 feet wide. That is the reason they called it Delaware.

De Witt's Little Early Risers, gentle, easy, pleasant little liver pills. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose druggist.

Many Southern papers say the South lost its best friend when Lincoln was assassinated. On this point historians everywhere are likely to be in agreement.

Experts at Panama expect the canal work to be practically complete in thirty three months. The croakers are dismayed to find the prospect improving all the time.

DeWitt's Kidney and Bladder Pills are the best pills made for backache, weak back, urinary disorders, etc. Sold by A. J. Deming and Scappoose druggist.

BASEBALL MEETING

At Masonic Hall Wed., Feb. 24th At 8 p. m. sharp

Everybody interested in St. Helens and in the success of the nine are requested to be present.

Subscribe for the Mist and the weekly Oregonian. \$1.80 per year.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the State Land Board of the State of Oregon, will sell to the highest bidder, at its office in the Capitol Building at Salem, Oregon, on February 22, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, all the State's interest in the title and overland lands herein after described, giving, however, to the owner or owners of any lands abutting or fronting on such title and overland lands, the preference right to purchase said title and overland lands at the highest price offered, provided such offer is made in good faith; and also provided that the land will not be sold nor any offer therefor accepted for less than \$2.00 per acre. The Board reserving the right to reject any and all bids. Said lands are situated in Columbia County, Oregon, and described as follows:

Tract 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Tract 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 13